



GRANDON GILL

THREE LITTLE PIGS (B)¹

"Who's afraid of the big bad wolf?", Charlene the pig asked her two brothers Alan and Brian as they danced around, almost mocking her. "Well, I am, just to name one!" And she had reason to be. Her siblings had lost everything they owned, blown away by a seriously deranged wolf. That wolf was now wandering around her neighborhood. This very moment, she had to make the most important decision of her life. Should she evacuate to the safety of the local market or should she stay at home? Or was there some other option that she might consider—such as laying a trail of roast beef to lead the wolf away to some other neighborhood? The lives of everyone in her family were at stake.

Background

Charlene's story had begun a few months before, immediately after the sale on her parents' homestead had closed. After commission, the sale had netted \$300,000 to be split between her and her two brothers—Alan and Brian. As the oldest, she had been responsible for getting her former home ready to sell after her parents had died in a freak barbecue grill explosion. By the time the deal had closed, her two siblings had already gotten loans from the bank and spent their share of the money. Charlene had been in no such hurry, however. She recognized that she might have to live with what she decided for a long time.

Charlene's House

Charlene had spent a considerable amount of time analyzing how to spend her inheritance. A variety of factors weighed into the decision. As a given, there was her job—like her two brothers, she worked at a factory in Pigston. Second, there was housing. A number of factors had come into play here. The greater Pigston area could be very expensive—with the cost of land depending on proximity to the factory. There could also be substantial variation in construction costs—ranging from low-cost straw to mid-cost wood frame to high cost brick. There had also been the issue of transportation (e.g., walking, biking, automobile, etc.). Naturally, that choice could not be made independently of housing—since walking to the factory from the Pigston exburbs was not an option.

By the time Charlene had begun to study her choices in detail, her two brothers were already settled. Although she respected their choices, she chose a very different direction. Rather than spending big bucks on travel or a foreign prestige car, she had chosen to invest nearly all her money (\$95,000) on a brick house with options that went considerably beyond code, spending the remainder on inexpensive

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furnishings purchased from Sties-To-Go and a moped to get her back and forth to work without the slightest pretense of style. Their choices are summarized in Exhibit 1.

Charlene's decision to spend nearly all her money on housing had been motivated by two factors. First, brick homes had traditionally depreciated at a much slower rate than straw or wood. Second, Pigston was in an area that could potentially be frequented by a rare species known as the "bellows wolf"—capable of generating Category 5 winds (on the Saffir-Simpson scale) when they blew with their enormous lungs. Such a blow would immediately flatten a straw dwelling and would, if continued long enough, lead to eventual catastrophic structural failure of wood frame homes. Even brick houses (see Exhibit 2) were unlikely to withstand an encounter with a bellows wolf without special reinforcement. Citing security as her top priority, Charlene had opted for every construction safety feature available—leading to a home that far exceeded all known building codes.

The Big Bad Wolf

It had been just a few hours before that the big bad wolf had blown into Pigston. An unusually large bellows wolf (*canis gasbagus*), his first stop had been the unincorporated area known as New Pigston, home of Charlene's brother Alan. Hearing a crash, he had looked out and seen—to his dismay—the wolf outside his neighbor's house, which had just collapsed. Even with advance warning, he had just barely been able to outrun the wolf in his chrome-detailed pigup truck as he headed towards his brother's house in Pigston. Once there, the two had laughed about the whole experience, dancing and singing the then-popular "Who's afraid...?" when Brian's stick house began to quiver. In terror, they realized the big bad wolf had caught up with Alan, and that they were trapped.

Just moments before they became dog food, divine providence intervened. As Brian's house collapsed—destroying his "sow magnet" German sports car and Alan's pigup—a single large branch separated from the rubble and started to fly away in the breeze. Some deep instinct within the wolf then appeared to take over, and it sprinted after the flying stick, temporarily forgetting the two trapped pigs. Extricating themselves from the rubble, Alan and Brian quietly sneaked away from the house, then sprinted over to the next block, where Charlene lived.

The Decision

Once Charlene had opened the door and let them in, she realized that she had to make a decision immediately. Although her house had been designed to withstand typical wolf-blows, Brian's description of the collapse of his house made it clear that this was no typical bellows wolf. Furthermore, unlike wood and straw houses, the collapse of a brick house would likely kill all the occupants—and there would be no flying sticks to distract the wolf. Another option would be to run to the market. Less than three blocks away, it was constructed of steel and also housed a satellite police station. It was unlikely the wolf would dare to follow them there—but they'd be extremely vulnerable for a few minutes. Caught out in the open, there'd be no way to run (wee, wee, wee) all the way home. Alan had also suggested another possibility. Charlene's refrigerator was well stocked with roast beef—a favorite of both pigs and wolves. Perhaps they could use it to distract the wolf, tossing chunks of it into neighboring yards. She felt that time was on her side—the presence of the big bad wolf was unlikely to have gone unnoticed. That meant a squad of the meanest boars you ever saw was probably on its way. Every minute that the wolf was distracted increased their likelihood of survival. But, tossing your meat next door when a wolf came prowling wasn't exactly the neighborly thing to do. Or maybe there were other options—ones she hadn't considered at all.

One thing was certain, however. Whatever decision she made had to be made now.

Exhibit 1: Inheritance Allocation of Pig Siblings

Item	Alan	Brian	Charlene
Housing	\$25,000 : 5000 sq. ft. straw house \$5,000 : Mud jacuzzi	\$40,000 : 1600 sq. ft stick-frame house	\$50,000 : 1000 sq. ft. brick house (basic) \$10,000 : Tile roof with hurricane straps \$15,000 : Electric hurricane window shutters
Lot	\$15,000 : 10 acre mini-estate in unincorporated Pigston exburbs	\$40,000 : 1 acre double golf course lot in Pigston proper	\$20,000 : ½ acre lot in Pigston proper
Furnishings	\$25,000 : "Party Hearty" complete set from William Sownoma.	\$10,000 : 5 rooms of exotic furnishings from Pig 1.	\$4,000 : 3 rooms of furnishings from Sties-to-Go
Transportation	\$35,000 : P150 pickup truck with chrome detailing	\$40,000 : Porkhe sports car	\$1,000 : Moped
Travel	\$10,000 : 3-week vacation in Europe	\$10,000 : 3-week vacation in Europe	N/A
Mortgage	(\$15,000)	(\$40,000)	(\$0)

Exhibit 2: Building Specifications

Item	Description	Key Specs	Costs	Comments
Straw Construction	Straw-built residential single family unit	Life span: 2-5 years Depreciation: 50%(30%)[1] Wind rating: Cat 0 (55 mph)	~\$5/sq. ft.	
Wood Construction	Wood/stick-built residential single family unit	Life span: 20-25 years Depreciation: 10%(2%)[2] Wind rating: Cat 2 (100 mph)	~\$25/sq. ft.	
Brick Construction	Brick-built residential single family unit	Life span: 100+ years Depreciation: 0% [3] Wind rating: Cat 4+ (160 mph)	~\$50/sq. ft.	Wind rating may be affected by options
Popular Options				
Jacuzzi	Mud-filled tank agitated by air jets	Capacity: 6 pigs or 8 piglets	\$5000	
Exterior trough	Water and slop trough for parties	Capacity: 16 pigs or 24 piglets	\$3000	
Smoke house	Stone-built exterior structure for smoking parties. May also be used as a shelter.	Capacity: 6 pigs/100 sq. ft. Wind rating: Cat 5+ (175 mph)	\$100/sq. ft	State law prohibits piglets from attending smokers
Barbeque pit	Circular pit with firewall designed for roasting sides of beef	Capacity: 1 side of beef Fuel: wood or charcoal	\$2000 \$1000 (propane option)	
Automatic door	Door incorporating voice recognition to provide easy entry	Min DB: 75 Max DB: 150 Freq Range: 400-25,000 Hz	\$2000	Owners should not use "wee, wee, wee" as entry phrase
Stucco coating [4]	Cement-based mixture with appearance of mud	Color: brown Sound reduction: 5-10 DB	\$1/sq. ft	Primarily for aesthetics and noise reduction
Hurricane roof [4]	Tile roof attached by tie-down straps	Life span: 40-50 years Warrantee: 20 years [5]	\$10/sq. ft.	Adds 10-20 mph to wind rating
Hurricane Panels	Hand installed steel panels	Life span: 25+ years	\$50/window [6]	Adds 10-20 mph to wind rating
Hurricane shutters	Motor-operated aluminum roll ups	Life span: 25+ years Warrantee: 20 years [7]	\$1200/window [6]	Adds 10-20 mph to wind rating
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1] Straw Depreciation: First Year (Later Years) [2] Wood Depreciation: First 3 Years (Later years) [3] Brick construction does not appear to depreciate, owing to its long expected life span [4] Available only for brick construction [5] Warrantee applies only to replacement of roof, not to any structural damage caused by roof failure [6] Assume roughly 1 window for every 10 feet of perimeter space [7] Warrantee includes \$20,000 insurance for content damage in the event of panel failure 				